

What is claimed is:

Sub B1 → 1. A method to protect an obligate carnivore from a disease of abnormal carbohydrate metabolism, said method comprising feeding said obligate carnivore a nutritionally balanced diet comprising a protein content of from about 30% to about 70% on a dry matter basis, a fat content amount of from about 10% to about 40% on a dry matter basis, and a carbohydrate content of not more than about 12% on a dry matter basis.

2. The method of Claim 1, wherein said obligate carnivore is selected from the group consisting of Felids, Hyaenids, Viverrids, and obligately carnivorous Mustelids.

3. The method of Claim 1, wherein said obligate carnivore is selected from the group consisting of *Felis domesticus*, *Felis silvestris*, *Panthera leo*, *Panthera tigris*, *Panthera pardus*, *Puma concolor*, *Crocuta crocuta*, *Hyaena hyaena*, and *Putorius furo*.

4. The method of Claim 1, wherein said carbohydrate content is not more than about 6% on a dry matter basis.

5. The method of Claim 1, wherein said carbohydrate content is not more than about 2% on a dry matter basis.

6. The method of Claim 1 wherein said disease is selected from the group consisting of obesity and diabetes mellitus.

7. The method of Claim 1, wherein said method maintains the health of an obligate carnivore in good health.

~~6.8.~~

The method of Claim 1, wherein said nutritionally balanced diet is selected from the group consisting of a dry diet and a wet diet.

Sub B27  
9. A method to protect an obligate carnivore from a disease of abnormal carbohydrate metabolism, said method comprising:

(a) producing a nutritionally balanced diet comprising a protein content of from about 30% to about 70% on a dry matter basis, a fat content amount of  
5 from about 10% to about 40% on a dry matter basis, and a carbohydrate content of not more than about 12% on a dry matter basis; and

(b) feeding said diet to said obligate carnivore.

10. A method to protect an obligate carnivore from a disease of abnormal carbohydrate metabolism, said method comprising feeding a nutritionally balanced diet comprising animal meat wherein the balance of nutrients in said animal meat approximates the balance of nutrients in a total animal carcass.

- Sub. 92
11. A method to maintain the health of a healthy obligate carnivore, said method comprising feeding said obligate carnivore a nutritionally balanced diet selected from the group consisting of: a nutritionally balanced diet comprising a protein content of from about 30% to about 70% on a dry matter basis, a fat content amount of from about 10% to about 40% on a dry matter basis, and a carbohydrate content of not more than about 12% on a dry matter basis; and a nutritionally balanced diet comprising animal meat wherein the balance of nutrients in said animal meat approximates the balance of nutrients in a total animal carcass.

Sub B37  
 12. An animal food composition for protecting an obligate carnivore from a disease of abnormal carbohydrate metabolism, said composition comprising a nutritionally balanced diet having a protein content of from about 30% to about 70% on a dry matter basis, a fat content amount of from about 10% to about 40% on a dry matter basis, and a carbohydrate content of not more than 6% on a dry matter basis.

Sub G3  
 13. The method of Claim 12, wherein said carbohydrate content is not more than 6% on a dry matter basis.

11 14. The composition of Claim <sup>10</sup>~~12~~, wherein said carbohydrate content is not more than about 4% on a dry matter basis.

10 12 <sup>10</sup>~~15~~. The composition of Claim ~~12~~, wherein said carbohydrate content is not more than about 2% on a dry matter basis.

13 <sup>10</sup>~~16~~. The composition of Claim ~~12~~, wherein said composition is selected from the group consisting of a dry composition and a wet composition.

15 17. The composition of Claim 12, wherein said composition maintains the health of a healthy obligate carnivore.

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sub B4  
18. A method to protect an obligate carnivore from a disease of abnormal carbohydrate metabolism, said method comprising feeding said obligate carnivore a nutritionally balanced food composition that comprises a percentage of carbohydrate on a dry matter basis that is not more than the highest percentage of carbohydrate on a dry matter basis that will protect said obligate carnivore from said disease of abnormal carbohydrate metabolism.

19. The method of Claim 18, wherein said nutritionally balanced food composition has a similar protective effect as a food composition comprising animal meat wherein the balance of nutrients in said animal meat approximates the balance of nutrients in a total animal carcass.

20. A method to maintain the health of a healthy obligate carnivore, said method comprising feeding said obligate carnivore a nutritionally balanced food composition that contains a percentage of carbohydrate on a dry matter basis that is not more than the highest percentage of carbohydrate on a dry matter basis that will maintain the health of said healthy obligate carnivore.

21. The method of Claim 20, wherein said nutritionally balanced food composition has a similar health maintenance effect as a food composition comprising animal meat wherein the balance of nutrients in said animal meat approximates the balance of nutrients in a total animal carcass.

add 94

add B8